

2019 Extraordinary Half Dime Fixed Price List

W. David Perkins, Numismatist

ANA Show, August 2019, Table 1533

Welcome to the 2019 Extraordinary Capped Bust Half Dime Fixed Price List! We hope you enjoy reading and studying this catalog as much as we enjoyed crafting it.

Nearly all of these half dimes are from the Stephen A. Crain collection. The Crain Collection contained all 92 die marriages and nearly every known die remarriage (lacking just three strong R-7 remarriages). Steve assembled his collection over the course of three-plus decades. His preferred grade and “look” was a lustrous and toned AU58. Steve would bypass mint state coins in order to achieve his AU58 goal. As much as Steve enjoyed the coins themselves, nobody who ever met him would believe for one second that he didn’t enjoy the history of the US Mint, studying the processes used in making coins, and most of all, the camaraderie with fellow collectors. How many of us would seek of the opinion of *Mr. Half Dime* when we thought we found something unique, or at least interesting, just to get his input? In almost 40 contributions to the John Reich Journal and untold numbers of contributions in other formats (such as the Collectors Universe Forums and other “online communities”), the world got to know and recognize Steve as **The Expert** on nearly *All Things Half Dime*!

We wish we didn’t have to write this catalog for another quarter century. Steve passed away on Father’s Day 2019 at the age of 70. His family approached us to ask for assistance in dispersing Steve’s treasured collection amongst – people who love the coins, the history, and the hobby like Steve did. Proceeds from the sale will help the family to pay for the medical and assisted living facility charges incurred during the last years of Steve’s life. We anticipate that completing the sale of the Crain Collection will take about two years, with the first part presented at the 2019 Summer ANA Show and the second part at the 2020 Summer ANA Show.

The next two pages of this catalog contain a list of the coins available with lot numbers, attribution, rarity rating, grade, certification number, and special details, such as die stage or provenance. The number in parenthesis is the certification number on the label. The source of most Capped Bust Half Dime rarity ratings is the recent JRCS census, published in the John Reich Journal in 2019. Ensuing pages contain color images and detailed descriptions of each coin.



Proud Dad and His Children: Steve, Geoff, Ethan, Brad, Michelle (Bouley), and Justin

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LOT F01: 1829 LM-1, R-2. PCGS MS62 (37264610)
LOT F02: 1829 LM-2, R-1. PCGS MS63 (10050684)
LOT F03: 1829 LM-3, R-2. PCGS MS62 (37054972)
LOT F04: 1829 LM-4, R-3. PCGS MS61 (37491704)
LOT F05: 1829 LM-7.3, R-4. PCGS AU50 Retained Cud (37054763)
LOT F06: 1829 LM-9, R-4. PCGS XF45 CAC (13200865)
LOT F07: 1829 LM-16.1, R-2. PCGS XF45 (37054770)
LOT F08: 1829 LM-16.2, R-2. PCGS MS63 CAC (20918304)
LOT F09: 1829 LM-17, R-4. PCGS AU53 (37264615)
LOT F10: 1830 LM-1.2, R-4. PCGS XF45 (37264616)
LOT F11: 1830 LM-3, R-2. PCGS MS62 (37054980)
LOT F12: 1830 LM-7, R-2. PCGS MS63 (29359521)
LOT F13: 1830 LM-9.1, R-4. PCGS XF45 (37264621)
LOT F14: 1830 LM-9.2, R-4. PCGS AU58 (37264622)
LOT F15: 1830 LM-12, R-4. PCGS AU55 (37491702)
LOT F16: 1830 LM-13, R-3. PCGS AU58 ex-Reiver (37491705)
LOT F17: 1830 LM-14, R-3. PCGS AU55 (37054977)
LOT F18: 1831 LM-1.3, R-1. PCGS MS63 (37264624)
LOT F19: 1831 LM-2, R-3. PCGS AU58 (37054986)
LOT F20: 1831 LM-4, R-2. PCGS AU55 (37054983)
LOT F21: 1831 LM-6, R-1. PCGS AU53 (37054989)
LOT F22: 1831 LM-6, R-1. PCGS MS63 (37054988)
LOT F23: 1831 LM-7, R-2. PCGS AU58 (37491709)
LOT F24: 1832 LM-1, R-4. PCGS AU58 (37491708)
LOT F25: 1832 LM-3, R-1. PCGS AU55 (37054999)
LOT F26: 1832 LM-5, R-1. PCGS MS61 (37054996)
LOT F27: 1832 LM-5, R-1. PCGS MS62 (37054777)
LOT F28: 1832 LM-7, R-2. PCGS AU55 (37054779)
LOT F29: 1832 LM-7, R-2. PCGS MS63 (37054994)
LOT F30: 1832 LM-8.1, R-3. PCGS MS62 (37054993)
LOT F31: 1832 LM-8.4, R-3. PCGS MS61 (37491693)
LOT F32: 1832 LM-12, R-2. PCGS AU50 (37054780)
LOT F33: 1832 LM-13, R-3. PCGS MS62 (37054998)

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LOT F34: 1833 LM-1, R-3. PCGS AU58 (37054788)
LOT F35: 1833 LM-3.1, R-2. NCS UNC Details Reiver (5070826-061)
LOT F36: 1833 LM-3.2, R-2. PCGS AU58 (37264632)
LOT F37: 1833 LM-3.4, R-2. PCGS AU55 (37491695)
LOT F38: 1833 LM-4.1, R-2. PCGS MS62 (37264633) ex-Logan
LOT F39: 1833 LM-7, R-2. PCGS AU55 (37264634)
LOT F40: 1833 LM-8, R-3. PCGS AU58 (37264635)
LOT F41: 1833 LM-9, R-2. PCGS MS63 (37054782)
LOT F42: 1833 LM-10, R-1. PCGS AU55 (37264636)
LOT F43: 1834 LM-1, R-2. PCGS AU58 (37055003)
LOT F44: 1834 LM-2, R-1. PCGS AU58 (37054790)
LOT F45: 1834 LM-3, R3. PCGS AU53 3/inverted 3 (37264641)
LOT F46: 1834 LM-5, R-3. PCGS AU53 (37264644)
LOT F47: 1835 LM-1, R-2. PCGS XF40 (37264645)
LOT F48: 1835 LM-3, R-2. PCGS AU58 Cud (37054799)
LOT F49: 1835 LM-3, R-1. PCGS MS61 (37055004)
LOT F50: 1835 LM-5.2, R-3. PCGS AU55 Cud (37054796)
LOT F51: 1835 LM-6, R-2. PCGS AU55 (37264649) ex-Logan
LOT F52: 1835 LM-7, R-3. PCGS AU55 (37054800)
LOT F53: 1835 LM-7, R-3. PCGS MS63+ (37264651)
LOT F54: 1835 LM-8.1, R-2. PCGS AU58 (37491697)
LOT F55: 1835 LM-8.2, R-2. PCGS AU58 (37054794)
LOT F56: 1835 LM-9.1, R-2. PCGS AU55 (37491696)
LOT F57: 1835 LM-10, R-1. PCGS AU58 (37054795)
LOT F58: 1835 LM-11, R-4. PCGS AU55 (37264655)
LOT F59: 1836 LM-2, R-3. PCGS AU58 (37054803)
LOT F60: 1836 LM-3, R-1. PCGS MS62 (37264656)
LOT F61: 1836 LM-5, R-2. PCGS AU58 ex-Reiver (37491700)
LOT F62: 1836 LM-6, R-3. PCGS AU58 (37054806)
LOT F63: 1836 LM-7, R-4. PCGS AU58 (37055008)
LOT F64: 1837 LM-1, R-1. PCGS AU58 (37055010)



1829 LM-1, R-2. PCGS MS62

LOT F01: 1829 LM-1, R-2. PCGS MS62 (37264610). Proof-like, colorful surfaces make this a quintessential Crain coin. Yes, Steve preferred his coins to be AU58, but he “settled” for a nice mint state coin for the first set piece of his capped bust half dime collection. Although a common die marriage, this coin represents an upgrade opportunity for a significant majority of collectors. Like nearly all coins in this fixed price list, this coin comes with Steve’s notes and flip.



**1829 LM-2
PCGS MS63**

LOT F02: 1829 LM-2, R-1. PCGS MS63 (10050684). In his notes, Steve described this as an “extremely attractive coin with gorgeous peripheral toning on obverse.” What he did not mention is that the coin has lustrous, almost Proof-like surfaces under that toning – and such surfaces are surprisingly easier to find on the 1829 LM-1, LM-2, and LM-3 die marriages. This coin is in an older, non-prong type of PCGS “blue label” holder. As such, it represents one of the few “entombed coins” that Steve did not crack out to maintain raw in his collection.



LOT F03: 1829 LM-3, R-2. PCGS MS62 (37054972). Toned with thicker golden brown, tilting the coin in the light will show off the luster that awaits beneath. Steve salted this coin away into his collection on St. Patrick's Day in 1995 and conservatively graded it as AU58. We are pretty sure that the new owner will likely agree with the PCGS grade.



LOT F04: 1829 LM-4, R-3. PCGS MS61 (37491704). This coin serves as an excellent reminder for those who knew a little bit of Steve's collecting habits. Not only did he maintain nearly all of his half dimes raw and stored in 2" x 2" cardboard and mylar flips, he also had somewhat of a disdain for "third and fourth party grading services." That's a roundabout way to tell you that this coin used to be in a holder graded NGC MS62 (insert included) and it has never been to CAC – Steve NEVER sent anything to CAC! You will be hard-pressed to find many prettier, more colorful MS61 half dimes dated 1829.



1829 LM-7.3 PCGS AU50 Retained Cud

LOT F05: 1829 LM-7.3, R-4. PCGS AU50 Retained Cud (37054763). Although the retained cud is “just barely” a retained cud, we believe collectors who seek late die states will appreciate as such and jump at the chance to own this coin. Steve added this colorfully-toned coin to his collection on Veteran’s Day in 1994...about two years before the Logan-McCloskey book was published. At the time he purchased the coin, it was in a PCGS AU50 “old green holder” with certification number 5229221. It spent the last 25 years liberated from its plastic tomb (“tomb” was his favorite word to describe a slab, so it seemed) before we sent it to PCGS once again.



1829 LM-9 PCGS XF45 CAC

LOT F06: 1829 LM-9, R-4. PCGS XF45 CAC (13200865). The CAC sticker will tell you that this coin did not come from the Crain collection. Nonetheless, it is quite worthy of your consideration. Formerly an R-5 die marriage until evidence and Steve’s decision to modify the rarity rating in a JRCS Census, choice examples of this R-4 half dime are still prized by collectors. Luster evident through the medium and somewhat crusty golden toning.



1829 LM-16.1 PCGS XF45

LOT F07: 1829 LM-16.1, R-2. PCGS XF45 (37054770). August 31, 1991. Think about that date for a moment. How old were you? What was going on at that time? A minor event happened on that day in Windham, Maine as Stephen Crain added this raw coin to his collection as “V14b, VEDS, R2, EF-45.” And here it sits today, totally original and bearing Steve’s assigned grade on the new PCGS holder. A common die marriage and remarriage for which Steve shelled out a whopping seventy-five dollars. How many other items have tripled in value over the last 28 years?



1829 LM-16.2 PCGS MS63 CAC

LOT F08: 1829 LM-16.2, R-2. PCGS MS63 CAC (20918304).

Creamy silver luster is the predominant appearance of this coin, though one will find copper and gold highlights toward the edge. One needs to closely study the die state descriptions, remarriage charts, and this coin itself to understand the PCGS attribution (printed on the label, a bonus for anyone putting together a PCGS Registry Set) as 1829 LM-16.2; for at first glance, the coin appears to be the earlier remarriage. The remarriage chart explains that the reverse was clashed, but then lapped...so it is possible to find an apparently unclashed 1829 LM-16.2, but only if die cracks found on the LM-16.2 and not on the earlier remarriage, can be found from S11 and S12 to the rim – as is found on this coin. An excellent opportunity to own a mint state example of this "hidden rarity" (only six examples were reported in the 2019 census AND this was the only variety missing from the 2002 auction of Russ Logan's collection). This is not from the Steve Crain collection.



LOT F09: 1829 LM-17, R-4. PCGS AU53 (37264615). When Steve added this coin to his collection in October of 2000, he described it as “a very nice example of a scarce die marriage, the best I have found.” Indeed, this crusty, original golden-brown coin would serve as an upgrade for many die marriage sets.



LOT F10: 1830 LM-1.2, R-4. PCGS XF45 (37264616). Steve’s conservative grading assessment on this R-4 half dime was a split grade: He thought the obverse VF35 and the reverse XF40. Fortunately, PCGS disagreed with Mr. Half Dime on this one. This is an earlier stage of reverse die deterioration, with light clash marks and cracks present.



1830 LM-3 PCGS MS62

LOT F11: 1830 LM-3, R-2. PCGS MS62 (37054980). Before you gloss over this coin, thinking, “oh, I already have an 1830 LM-3 in my collection,” just take a look at the photo of THIS coin. Is yours nicer than this? Does it have nicer surfaces? Does it have prettier colors? Steve answered all of those questions for himself already, that’s why this example of a very common die marriage was in his collection. It was just too pretty to pass up. Steve assigned the conservative grade of AU55 with the simple description of “nice album toning.” Nice indeed!



1830 LM-7 PCGS MS63

LOT F12: 1830 LM-7, R-2. PCGS MS63 (29359521). Great choice as a type piece or to fill the spot of this common die marriage in a set. The PCGS attribution is on the label (helpful if you are assembling a PCGS Registry Set using Logan-McCloskey numbers). Bright silver in hand, with a touch of golden and copper toning that is not readily visible in this photo. Not from the Crain collection.



1830 LM-9.1, R-4. PCGS XF45

LOT F13: 1830 LM-9.1, R-4. PCGS XF45 (37264621). The ANA summer show of 1996 was where Steve found this coin. At the time, he thought it was a VF35 to XF40. How grading has changed! The darker toning on the obverse is nicely offset by bright, warm orange-brown patina on the reverse. Significant crumbling is evident on the reverse. With just the upper loop of S2 filled, attribution is easy on this one!



1830 LM-9.2 PCGS AU58

LOT F14: 1830 LM-9.2, R-4. PCGS AU58 (37264622). If you are one of the couple of dozen half dime census participants who needs a nicer example of this tough R-4 die remarriage, you have an opportunity with this lustrous and colorful half dime. The tiny chip in T1 is all the evidence you need to make the determination that this is the LM-9.2 remarriage.



1830 LM-12 PCGS AU55

LOT F15: 1830 LM-12, R-4. PCGS AU55 (37491702). We cracked this out of its NGC AU58 holder (insert provided) to cross to PCGS. We did that not because Steve wanted us to do that, but more because the majority of collectors who participate in our fixed price and sealed bid sales seems to prefer the PCGS holder. This R-4 coin is a light grey with luster commensurate with grade readily apparent.



1830 LM-13 PCGS AU58 ex-Reiver

LOT F16: 1830 LM-13, R-3. PCGS AU58 ex-Reiver (37491705). We must admit, as we are writing this description, looking at the coin, looking at the images, and looking at the price, we are starting to wonder about how many different collectors would try to buy this coin! The deep, original, and colorful toning over lustrous surfaces, along with the “magical AU58 grade,” will make this a desirable coin for many. When Steve purchased this out of the auction of the Jules Reiver collection in 2006, it had been attributed by NGC as LM-12. Steve correctly attributed this coin as LM-13 and it has been in his collection since the Reiver auction. The NGC AU58 insert is provided.



1830 LM-14 PCGS AU55

LOT F17: 1830 LM-14, R-3. PCGS AU55 (37054977). Here was an example of Steve's prototypical coin. Blanketed in original toning, check. Choice AU, check. Pretty colors, check! Although Steve graded the coin AU58 and PCGS graded it AU55, what is certain is the new owner will likely appreciate its beauty as much as Steve did.



1831 LM-1.3 PCGS MS63

LOT F18: 1831 LM-1.3, R-1. PCGS MS63 (37264624). When Steve bought this coin for a whopping \$113.40 in 1999, he graded it his favorite grade of AU58. Once again, Steve was a touch conservative. Maybe Steve didn't have a good light source when he graded this one, for it is fully lustrous and has hints of gold, green, and rose toward the obverse periphery. The die state is the earliest stage of the 1831 LM-1.3 remarriage, with NIT connected at the top via a die crack. We find the coin to be markedly nicer in hand than the photos would indicate. We think Steve's friend Gerry Fortin would provide his advice on this one as, "Just Buy It Now!"



1831 LM-2 PCGS AU58

LOT F19: 1831 LM-2, R-3. PCGS AU58 (37054986). After viewing a few pages of coins available through this fixed price list, you are likely concluding that Steve preferred his coins to be layered in original toning. Here is another one! Inspection in the light will show the luster trying to peek out through the moderate toning. Steve had graded this one at AU55, as shown on his 2" x 2" holder (included with the lot, of course). We don't think there will be much argument with the PCGS grade here.



1831 LM-4 PCGS AU55

LOT F20: 1831 LM-4, R-2. PCGS AU55 (37054983). Softly-struck hair details account for the difference between the PCGS grade of AU55 and Steve's grade of MS61. Some lucky collector will save some money on that difference. Fiery orange and copper toning grace the periphery of this lovely silver coin. A common die marriage *should* look like this if it is to be added to an advanced collection.



1831 LM-6 PCGS AU53

LOT F21: 1831 LM-6, R-1. PCGS AU53 (37054989). If you read just a few of Steve's articles in the John Reich Journal and other publications, you would understand that he has a fascination with die states. The 1831 LM-6 is an otherwise-common die marriage that most collectors don't think about all that much. Steve had multiples of this die marriage, since he wanted to collect it in its many stages of die deterioration. He had labeled this one as V1a to indicate its early die state before the loops of S2 filled with die chips. If you are looking for a lustrous half dime with an attractive rainbow above Miss Liberty, here it is.



1831 LM-6 PCGS MS63

LOT F22: 1831 LM-6, R-1. PCGS MS63 (37054988). In contrast to the prior lot, this is a later stage of die deterioration of the reverse die used on the 1831 LM-6. Steve catalogued this coin as V1d to indicate the later die state. Cracks and the filled loops of S2 are readily apparent. The subdued silver color has the luster one would expect on an MS63 coin. Excellent choice for a mint state type set or for a die marriage collection for a collector looking to upgrade.



1831 LM-7 PCGS AU58

LOT F23: 1831 LM-7, R-2. PCGS AU58 (37491709). As you examine this image, you are probably getting the idea that Steve Crain really adored coins that look like this 1831 LM-7 half dime. If a coin had this look, he would seek to add it to his collection. Steve purchased this in a smaller, white ANACS holder with a seven-digit certification label (provided with the coin to buyer). As common as this die marriage is, it is truly uncommon with this look.



1832 LM-1 PCGS AU58

LOT F24: 1832 LM-1, R-4. PCGS AU58 (37491708). Just another richly-colorful, lustrous, AU58 half dime here, demonstrating that *look*. Formerly in an older, small ANACS holder with seven-digit certification number (insert included), this coin “upgraded” from ANACS AU55 to PCGS AU58. Of course, the coin itself did not change during the transition, just the label changed! The 1832 LM-1 die marriage is one of the more challenging R-4 die marriages to find in choice AU or better grades. Just three mint state grades reported higher in the 2019 JRCS census.



1832 LM-3 PCGS AU55

LOT F25: 1832 LM-3, R-1. PCGS AU55 (37054999). This coin was catalogued as MS62 in the Crain collection. PCGS decided it was AU55. Certainly, one should not grade from a photo, but it can't hurt to speculate on this one. Plug the PCGS cert number into the app on your smartphone or on the PCGS website and view the huge images. This coin does seem to be a mint state coin. Grade-focused talk aside, this is a remarkable half dime for the very late die state. How many other 1832 LM-3 half dimes have you seen that have the rim-to-rim die crack above the cap, the lower loop of S1 filled, myriad die cracks from rim to lettering, and a thick crack atop the scroll? Common die marriage, but very uncommon die state. This will make a great buy for one lucky collector.



1832 LM-5 PCGS MS61

LOT F26: 1832 LM-5, R-1. PCGS MS61 (37054996). Steve had this coin in his collection in an older NGC AU58 holder for about 19 years (insert included). He catalogued the coin as having a retained cud. Certainly, the retained cud is not TED STA as can be seen on the latest stages of die deterioration of this die marriage, but if one focuses solely on A1 it will be noted that there is a raised area below the A1, explaining the “retained cud” status that Steve assigned. In hand, this is a lovely, original, and lustrous example of this common die marriage. The brown tone blankets the entire coin, with areas of copper and rose highlights evident.



1832 LM-5 PCGS MS62

LOT F27: 1832 LM-5, R-1. PCGS MS62 (37054777). This coin was added to the Crain collection in 1996, where it sat in a coin cabinet and waited for occasional daylight breaks for study and comparison to other 1832 LM-5 half dimes for purposes of appreciation of die deterioration studies. The obverse is a medium coin grey, with the reverse being a lighter coin grey. Some strike weakness is seen on the reverse on the eagle's head and the wing feathers. An attractive original example of this common die marriage.



1832 LM-7 PCGS AU55

LOT F28: 1832 LM-7, R-2. PCGS AU55 (37054779). At this point in this fixed price catalog, readers should get the idea that Steve Crain did not seek out bright white coins! Here is yet another example of an original, toned half dime that attracted the attention of *Mr. Half Dime*. When Steve purchased this coin in 1995, it was in a green label PCGS holder (AU53 insert included). We like the idea of collecting the more common die marriages with choice specimens like this one.



1832 LM-7 PCGS MS63

LOT F29: 1832 LM-7, R-2. PCGS MS63 (37054994). We have heard our friend Jim Matthews use the term “Color Bomb” a few times when describing really pretty, colorful coins...we feel that term is appropriate here! If your budget and collecting preferences tend toward mint state coins, you really can’t go wrong with this, the second example of the 1832 LM-7 die marriage in our fixed price list. Steve bought this coin from Centennial Auctions in 2008. The seller graded the coin MS64 and Steve catalogued it as a “beautiful late die state” MS63. This is just a great half dime that will do well as a type piece or serve perfectly in a die marriage collection.



1832 LM-8.1 PCGS MS62

LOT F30: 1832 LM-8.1, R-3. PCGS MS62 (37054993). Have you searched for a higher grade 1832 LM-8.1 lately? If you have, you will understand that the R-3 rarity rating makes that search seem much simpler than it actually is. What a challenge to find a pretty, colorful, lustrous, and choice example of this remarriage! For one lucky collector, that challenge will end with this coin.



1832 LM-8.4 PCGS MS61

LOT F31: 1832 LM-8.4, R-3. PCGS MS61 (37491693). In hand, one sees a brighter silver coin than the image would suggest. We can be certain of the attribution because we note the lower part of E1 is filled (denoting at least LM-8.4) and we see that no crack has developed above A3 (meaning it is not yet LM-8.5). The luster is ample and those who like to study die defects will have added opportunity to appreciate die chips, cracks, clashes, and bulges present on the reverse. Atypical for a Crain coin in that this half dime is devoid of the patina that Steve usually sought.



1832 LM-12 PCGS AU50

LOT F32: 1832 LM-12, R-2. PCGS AU50 (37054780). After an oh-so-brief hiatus from fully-patinated coins, we are back to what Mr. Half Dime sought in earnest. Steve added this coin to his collection in 2002 and catalogued it as an AU55. No doubt he appreciated the later die state with a filled lower loop of the 8 in the date and the bulged horizontal shield lines on the reverse.



1832 LM-13 PCGS MS62

LOT F33: 1832 LM-13, R-3. PCGS MS62 (37054998). Blanketed in a frosty, light rose gold tone, this lustrous half dime is a great choice for someone seeking an example of this more-readily-available R-3 die marriage. Steve liberated this coin from a PCGS green label holder (MS61 insert included) when he purchased the coin in 1997 and it sat raw until we had it entombed once again in 2019.



1833 LM-1 PCGS AU58

LOT F34: 1833 LM-1, R-3. PCGS AU58 (37054788). Catalogued as a V7a in Steve's notes, this coin represents a very early stage of the reverse die, with no signs of the crack on the reverse that later develops into a large cud. Luster abounds through the golden yellow toning. Strike doubling evident on most of the reverse lettering. Steve's holder, provided with the coin, calls it "shift doubling." We aren't going to argue with Mr. Half Dime!



LOT F35: 1833 LM-3.1, R-2. NCS UNC Details cleaned ex-Reiver (5070826-061). Steve had a great appreciation for the provenance of his coins. He paid more than \$400 for this coin from the Jules Reiver collection (meaning he had competition at that level from other bidders!). Rather than crack this coin out, he elected to maintain it in the original NCS holder. Heritage described the coin as follows: “Bright and reflective but toned back with splashes of dark gold over the obverse and reverse with a few hairlines present over Liberty. Both dies show strong clash marks in the fields, and this coin boasts a strong strike. This coin should suit most collectors despite the minor cleaning evidence.”



LOT F36: 1833 LM-3.2, R-2. PCGS AU58 (37264632). A 1996 addition to Steve’s collection, he described this coin with what had to be the understatement of that year: Severely Clashed. Just take a look at the photos and you can see this coin was a real mess! We guarantee that the buyer of this coin will spend significant time studying the clashed obverse and reverse. Like many other 1833 LM-3 die remarriages, this example boasts an exceptional strike. A whole lot to like with this one!



1833 LM-3.4 PCGS AU55

LOT F37: 1833 LM-3.4, R-2. PCGS AU55 (37491695). Perhaps the effects of living in a household with a daughter who likes to watch the television show, “The Voice,” influences what pops into one’s mind when viewing this coin (at least it popped into this cataloger’s mind!). First thoughts when seeing this half dime are a paraphrase of an Alicia Keys song: *This coin is on fire!* OK, if you do not have a young daughter or granddaughter in the house, maybe you won’t recognize the song or the lyrics, but we are sure you will agree that the fiery toning on this lustrous half dime seems to be blazing with life. NGC had graded this as AU58 (insert included). Should be easy to pull the trigger on this one!



1833 LM-4.1 PCGS MS62

LOT F38: 1833 LM-4.1, R-2. PCGS MS62 (37264633) ex-Logan. We don’t know where Steve picked up this ex-Logan coin in 2006. We do know that he thought the coin was AU, another example of Steve’s tendency to grade the way he wanted his coins to be! This lustrous silver-gold toned coin has areas of copper colored toning, more prominently so on the obverse.



1833 LM-7 PCGS AU55

LOT F39: 1833 LM-7, R-2. PCGS AU55 (37264634). One immediately notices the vibrant luster and color on the surfaces of this common die marriage. Sea green, rose, and gold predominate the surfaces, with the most attractive bands toward the periphery. Close inspection shows significant areas of strike doubling on the reverse.



LOT F40: 1833 LM-8, R-3. PCGS AU58 (37264635). In hand, the coin presents more as lustrous, slightly dusky silver than as a golden tone seen in the photo. As such, we think it is much more attractive than the image would have you believe. At one time (1995 when Steve purchased the coin as an ANACS AU58 – insert included), this was the finest known 1833 LM-8 (referred to simply as V-2 before publication of the Logan-McCloskey book). In the most recent survey, there were four examples reported in higher grade. The bulge in the top of the shield is quite evident.



1833 LM-9 PCGS MS63

LOT F41: 1833 LM-9, R-2. PCGS MS63 (37054782). Steve purchased this coin 25 years ago and graded it AU55, then stored it in his cardboard and mylar 2x2 and didn't ever expose it to the elements again. A quarter century later, it is still a bright silver coin with ample frosty luster and a thick die crack in the cap that extends to the rim...and now it is a mint state 63 coin. We can conclude that Steve's grading was conservative in 1994 or that he saw nearly all "nice coins" as AU58s! Either way, this is a very attractive example of one of the most instantly-recognizable die marriages of 1833.



1833 LM-10 PCGS AU55

LOT F42: 1833 LM-10, R-1. PCGS AU55 (37264636). The 1833 LM-10 is seemingly ubiquitous. Nonetheless, this particular coin remained in Steve's set for more than 20 years. The strike, the color, and the luster must have appealed to him to the point where he did not seek an upgrade. This coin takes on markedly different appearances depending on the light source. If you are the fortunate buyer, give it a try!



1834 LM-1 PCGS AU58

LOT F43: 1834 LM-1, R-2. PCGS AU58 (37055003). Although the PCGS holder does not indicate it, this is an example of the 1834 3/inverted 3 Redbook variety, so it is also sought by type collectors. The pretty copper, gold, red, and green toning add to the appeal of this lustrous half dime. One can see the fine die cracks on the reverse, at ED of UNITED, that later deteriorate into a cud. Before you balk at this price for “just an 1834 half dime” take a look at how gorgeous it is and take a look at what PCGS says an 1834 3/inverted 3 should sell for.



1834 LM-2 PCGS AU58

LOT F44: 1834 LM-2, R-1. PCGS AU58 (37054790). Seemingly omnipresent, the 1834 LM-2 is an easy die marriage to pick and choose to ensure you have the best example for your collection. So why did Steve choose this one? We think it met his criteria for eye appeal and toning, despite a couple of toned-over scratches. More importantly, we think he chose this specific coin because of the late die state of the obverse, specifically the thick die crack seen in the cap of Miss Liberty. Certainly, not many 1834 LM-2 half dimes are of a later stage of die deterioration.



1834 LM-3 PCGS AU53 3/inverted 3

LOT F45: 1834 LM-3, R3. PCGS AU53 3/inverted 3 (37264641). The 1834 LM-3 and LM-5 are a bit more challenging in AU and higher grades. The PCGS label indicates 3/inverted 3 for those who need that specific variety for a type set. This is a great coin for study. Die lapping removed much of the detail in the arrowheads and shafts, among other places, on the reverse.



1834 LM-5 PCGS AU53

LOT F46: 1834 LM-5, R-3. PCGS AU53 (37264644). Steve often pointed out the difficulty of finding a nice example of the 1834 LM-5 die marriage. Certainly, we tend to think all 1834 half dime die marriages are easy to find. While that may be the case, he was right in that locating a nice AU or better example of the last die marriage for the year can be a challenge. This coin was in Steve's collection for more than 19 years. We are sure he appreciated the heavy die crack from the rim through S7 through the cap. If he were writing this catalog, he would challenge you to see if you can find an example that shows that same crack continuing and going from the cap through S8 to the rim...they are out there!



1835 LM-1 PCGS XF40

LOT F47: 1835 LM-1, R-2. PCGS XF40 (37264645). In 1994, Steve paid the princely sum of \$45 for this earlier die state example of the 1835 LM-1 die marriage. We think this coin is still a bargain, with pretty coin grey surfaces, hints of luster, and some rose patina evident on the obverse.



1835 LM-3 PCGS AU58 Cud

LOT F48: 1835 LM-3, R-2. PCGS AU58 Cud (37054799). This coin represents a great opportunity to own a colorful, lustrous, choice AU coin with an “internal cud” as seen at the junction of CA in AMERICA. In early 1996, Steve categorized this coin not using the term “cud.” Instead, here merely noted a “lump at C1.” How times have changed. Formerly in a six-digit ANACS small white holder. The ANACS AU55 label is included (affixed to Steve’s holder).



1835 LM-3 PCGS MS61

LOT F49: 1835 LM-3, R-1. PCGS MS61 (37055004). This second example of the 1835 LM-3 die marriage is a wonderfully-toned, mint state, early die stage half dime. There is no evidence of the formation of a cud or lump between CA of AMERICA. When Steve purchased this coin, he already owned four other 1835 LM-3 half dimes. His notes say that he purchased it solely for its eye appeal and price (it was just \$180!).



1835 LM-5.2 PCGS AU55 Cud

LOT F50: 1835 LM-5.2, R-3. PCGS AU55 Cud (37054796). The cud on this coin is on the obverse, just above the cap. Had there also been a retained cud on the reverse, this would be a four-figure coin and a highlight of our auction. The reverse has no such cud, though it does show the die cracks through S2 in the scroll, along the scroll, and to the D in UNITED that later becomes a retained cud. There are just two known examples with that reverse retained cud. This lightly toned coin-grey half dime has hints of rose toning and choice AU luster. It should make a welcome addition to the die marriage and remarriage set of many collectors.



LOT F51: 1835 LM-6, R-2. PCGS AU55 (37264649) ex-Logan. This coin was lot #1819 in the 2002 Bowers and Merena auction of the Logan Collection, where it was described with the simple, yet accurate, terms of “attractive gold toning over light gray surfaces.” An excellent opportunity to affordably add two wonderful provenances to a collection.



1835 LM-7 PCGS AU55

LOT F52: 1835 LM-7, R-3. PCGS AU55 (37054800). Light rose-gold centers give way to deeper copper and sable toning toward the periphery, especially on the obverse. This is the large date, large 5C variety and an excellent specimen at that.



1835 LM-7 PCGS MS63+

LOT F53: 1835 LM-7, R-3. PCGS MS63+ (37264651). If you paused for the first 1835 LM-7 in this fixed price list and thought it would be the perfect coin for your set, let's hope you read further and saw this one too. Wonderful, lustrous surfaces are graced with copper, gold, rose, and sea green patina, making for outstanding eye appeal. Steve certainly missed the mark in his conservative grading of this one, as he called it an AU58. Did we say that this coin (like ALL of Steve's coins) has never been to CAC? This relative "newcomer" to Steve's collection was in his possession for *only* 14 years.



1835 LM-8.1 PCGS AU58

LOT F54: 1835 LM-8.1, R-2. PCGS AU58 (37491697). You will probably think that this is a beautiful coin with a variety of original and attractive colors and choice luster. You would be correct. You might then stop and think, "Wait, PCGS guide price is \$350. Why is this priced about 25% above that?" We turn to the latest census to answer that question. This coin, and just one other AU58, is at the top of the condition census in the 2019 census of capped bust half dimes. That's right. Except for the owner of the number one set in the JRCS census, this coin represents and upgrade for **EVERYONE**. Who knows? Maybe this represents an "eye appeal upgrade" for the owner of the finest set in the census too? Formerly graded NGC AU58, the old insert has been provided for the buyer.



1835 LM-8.2 PCGS AU58

LOT F55: 1835 LM-8.2, R-2. PCGS AU58 (37054794). The reverse seen on this 1835 LM-8.2 is a slightly later die state than is seen on the reverse of the 1835 LM-9.1, in that there is a slight crack above A3 that is not seen on the 1835 LM-8.1. In hand, one notes ample luster, yellow and rose gold toning and some original crust in the reverse devices. Steve added this coin to his collection in 1991 and it lived free until April of 2019 (28 years), when we entombed it in a PCGS AU58 holder. Steve's conservative grade for this coin in 1991 was AU50.



1835 LM-9.1 PCGS AU55

LOT F56: 1835 LM-9.1, R-2. PCGS AU55 (37491696). If you have an electronic version of this catalog, it might be a good time now to just quickly scroll from the first page all the way to this coin to see how NICE each one of these coins truly is! Flip the pages of your printed catalog, assuming you printed yours on a color printer, to see how *beauty can get monotonous*. We are all collectors who know how darn difficult it is to find coins that are this attractive and then put together a massive set of them! So here is more of the same: original surfaces, blanketed in lovely patina, and possessing choice AU luster. More “*what’s not to like*” for your consideration.



1835 LM-10 PCGS AU58

LOT F57: 1835 LM-10, R-1. PCGS AU58 (37054795). It seems that the US Mint went into overdrive when churning out the 1835 LM-10 die marriage. So many of these coins exist that it seems like every other 1835 we see for sale is an LM-10. Thus, collectors should be picky when choosing their set piece. Many collectors will likely want to choose this coin because of the highly-attractive coloration on both obverse and reverse. In 1994, Steve plucked this coin from a set that included two other coins: an 1835 quarter and an 1835 half. He noted that both other coins were also nicely toned and AU.



LOT: 1835 LM-11 PCGS AU55

LOT F58: 1835 LM-11, R-4. PCGS AU55 (37264655). Steve wrote about this die marriage in his notes, remarking “this die marriage is very tough in high AU to mint state.” We couldn’t agree more! A pretty coin with original, lustrous surfaces that is sure to find a home in a welcoming collector’s set.



1836 LM-2 PCGS AU58

LOT F59: 1836 LM-2, R-3. PCGS AU58 (37054803). Have you recently searched for an original, choice AU 1836 LM-2? Unless you are the one collector to whom we sold a colorful AU58 to early in 2019 (at a higher price!), chances are that your search produced zero results. This R-3 die marriage is exceedingly difficult to find in high grade. Ask some advanced collectors how long it took them to locate choice AU or mint state grades and you may well get back answers ranging from “quite a few years” to “a decade or more.” We wish we had another half dozen like this one!



1836 LM-3 PCGS MS62

LOT F60: 1836 LM-3, R-1. PCGS MS62 (37264656). Steve jumped at the chance to add this colorful coin to his collection in 1995, so much so that he made a trade and cash deal to obtain it! One of the more colorful coins in the entire collection, we think we may see multiple orders for this one, even though it is the common die marriage 1836 LM-3, also known as 1836 3/inverted 3 to type collectors.



1836 LM-5 PCGS AU58

LOT F61: 1836 LM-5, R-2. PCGS AU58 ex-Reiver (37491700). Steve was pleased to add this coin to his set from the collection of friend and mentor to many, Jules Reiver. Imagine that after about twenty years of collecting, Mr. Half Dime chose to add *this coin* to his collection to represent the pretty-darn-common 1836 LM-5 die marriage. Check out the lustrous surfaces that are gracefully toned in grey and copper and you will understand why. The Reiver insert, with NGC's AU58 grade, is provided with the coin.



1836 LM-6 PCGS AU58

LOT F62: 1836 LM-6, R-3. PCGS AU58 (37054806). This was the only PCI-graded capped bust half dime in the Crain collection. The PCI label is included with the coin. Toning is overall light grey, with hints of copper on the obverse and more obvious areas of strong copper toning on the reverse.



1836 LM-7 PCGS AU58

LOT F63: 1836 LM-7, R-4. PCGS AU58 (37055008). The penultimate coin in this, the first part of the sale of the Stephen Crain collection, is very much like the ones that preceded it. The choice lustrous surfaces are graced with attractive patina. Sea green, rose, rose gold, and copper are prominently displayed. This R-4 die marriage is challenging in choice AU grades. This coin represents an opportunity for an upgrade for nearly all die marriage collectors.



1837 LM-1 PCGS AU58

LOT F64: 1837 LM-1, R-1. PCGS AU58 (37055010). So-called “straight-graded” 1837 capped bust half dimes are difficult to come by. Nearly everyone wants to upgrade one or two (or even all five) of their 1837 capped bust half dimes. Sometimes, just finding a higher graded coin is a blessing. This coin represents a wonderful opportunity. Not only is it an 1837 in the grade of AU58, but it is a BLAST of color! Further, when Steve purchased this coin, he found it in an NGC MS62 holder. The NGC insert is provided with this coin. We think multiple collectors will jump at the chance to pay above price guide for this wonderful coin.